(c) The per hectare consumption in India has been increasing over the years. From 72 Kg/hectare in 1994-95, it has increased to 90 Kg/hectare in 1998-99. However, per hectare consumption in India varies widely amongst the States. From as low as 30 Kg/hectare in the State if Orissa, 37 Kg/hectare in Rajasthan, 49 Kg/hectare in Madhya Pradesh, it is as high as 140 kg/ hectare in Haryana, 152 Kg/hectare in Tamil Nadu, 154 Kg/hectare in Andhra Pradesh and 177 Kg / hectare in Punjab. The consumption of fertilisers is dependent on a variety of factors and one of the chief reasons in States having low consumption is the lack of irrigation. The low consmption of fertilisers has effect on productivity and production of foodgrains and other crops.

Sell of equity by N.F.L.

5032. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Fertilizers Limited is looking for suitable advisers to sell 51 per cent equity.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) whether Government have decided to sell only 51 per cent and net 100 per cent of the equity in F.M.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Government of India have sought Expression of Interest from internationally reputed merchant/ investment banks, consulting firms and financial institutions with expertise in privatisation/strategic sales with a view to identify a global advisor for disinvestment of Government equity in National Fertilizers Limited (NFL). The global advisor is required to advise and assist the Government of India in the disinvestment exercise. The decision of the Government is to disinvest 51% of NFL's equity held by Government through strategic sale to a strategic buyer alongwith the transfer of management control.

Revival Package of HFC and FCI Units

5033. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a BIFR hearing had been held on revival of HFC and FCI Units on 16th March, 2000;

(b) if so, whether any directive has been given by the Bench to Government for giving a comprehensive revival package of these two companies; and

(c) if so, the details of the same and unit-wise action plan of Government as per BIFR's directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir. (b) and (c) BIFR after hearing the submissions of all the stakeholders in the hearing held on 16.3.2000 issued a number of directions to be complied with by Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) in consultation with the Operating Agency (OA) i.e. ICICI and the promoter, i.e., Government of India. The directions inter alia include that the respective companies, HFC and FCI would prepare unit-wise statement of assets and liabilities as on 31.3.2000 including item-wise description of the assets with their book value and estimated realisable value. The liabilities may be broken up into secured and unsecured creditors alongwith contingent laibilities, if any, so as to enable the OA to draw out and issue a press advertisement for privatisation of either the company as a whole or of individual unit either with or without full or part of the liablities.

The workers unions were free to put up revival proposals through Workers' Industrial Cooperative Society (WICS) in consultation with the respective State Government.

In respect of Barauni and Durgapur units of HFC, OA shall make an attempt of a revival through sale of these undertaking as 'going concern' with or without liabilities. The Bench also directed the sale of the assets of the Haldia Fertilizer Project after its approval. BIFR further directed a technical examination for essential repairs and limited modernisation of Sindri unit. The Bench noted the approval of the sale of assets of Korba Project already granted through a separate order and the negotiations regarding Gorakhpur unit being held with KRIBHCO. As regards Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI, the company was asked to ascertain whether there was any positive contribution in respect of these units. In case of a negative contribution, the company may indicate the steps required to make it positive and indicate the likely cost of the same.